



Idaho County

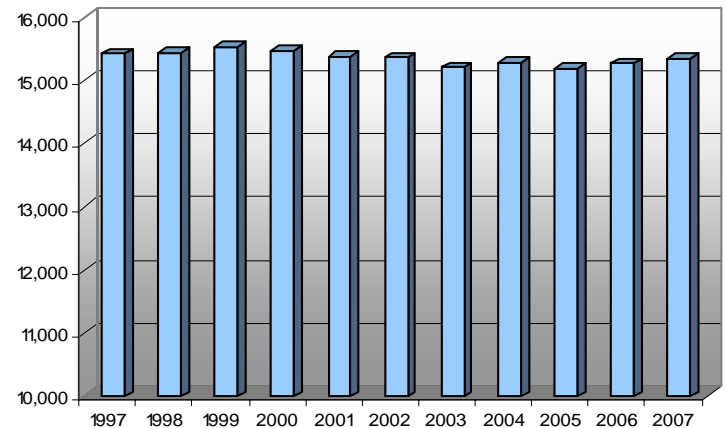
October 2008

Work Force Trends

Population

Idaho County's population fell marginally from 15,414 in 1997 to 15,345 in 2007, while U.S. population grew 11 percent and the state of Idaho's population grew 22 percent. New registrations for driver's licenses and job registrations at the Grangeville Department of Labor office indicate few people moved into Idaho County, most are from other parts of the Pacific Northwest and California. They came primarily to enjoy the scenic beauty, outdoor recreational opportunities and rural lifestyle.

Populations of Idaho County's incorporated cities are: Grangeville, 3,090; Cottonwood, 1,020; Kooskia, 650; Riggins, 400; Stites, 220; Ferdinand, 140; and White Bird, 110.



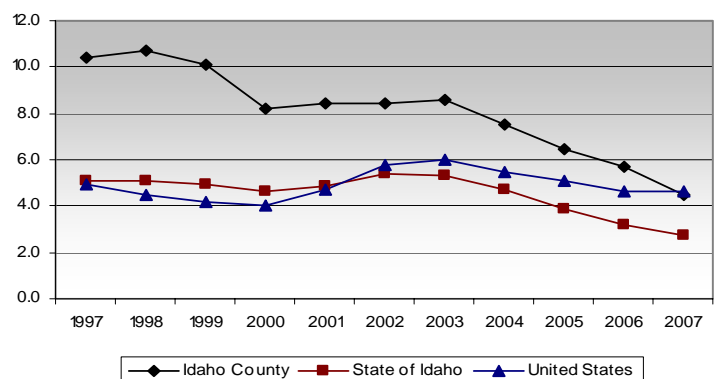
Labor Force & Employment

Idaho County's economy has been adding jobs at a slow, but steady, rate during the last three years.

The area remains heavily dependent on natural resources—both forest products and agriculture. The U.S. Forest Service employs more than 300 people. Higher prices for wheat and other products are helping farmer's bottom lines, and allows them to spend more money at implements, wholesalers and retail stores. One in eight of the county's private-sector jobs are in logging or wood products manufacturing. Unfortunately, the decrease in U.S. housing starts has depressed lumber prices, forcing local mills to reduce employment.

The county—full of mountains, forests and rivers—is just beginning to tap into its full tourist potential. Over

Unemployment Rate



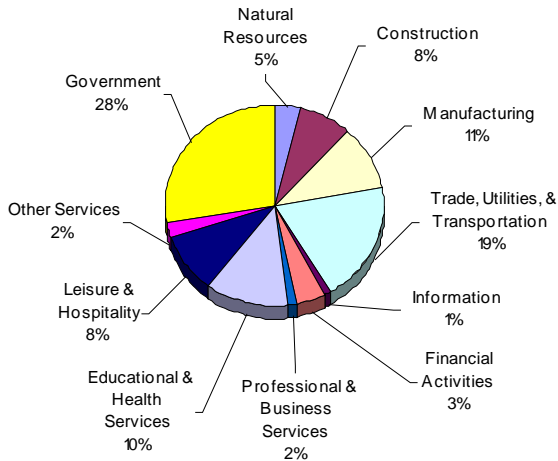
the last few years, the Super 8 Motel in Grangeville and the Salmon Rapids Lodge in Riggins were built. In 2005, St. Gertrude's Monastery opened a \$3.4 million retreat that brings 10,000 people to Cottonwood each year. A growing arts community also draws some visitors, as well as making the county more attractive to retirees.

In the last few years, Idaho County's unemployment rate edged down as employment grew. In recent months, troubles in the timber industry have pushed the rates up.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	7,091	7,192
Total Employment	6,809	6,683
Unemployed	282	509
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	7.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	6,353	6,400	6,257	6,924	7,009	7,066	6,835	7,061	7,065	7,042	7,190
Unemployment	660	684	634	570	590	595	585	533	456	400	324
% of Labor Force Unemployed	10.4	10.7	10.1	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.6	7.5	6.5	5.7	4.5
Employment	5,693	5,716	5,623	6,354	6,419	6,471	6,250	6,529	6,609	6,642	6,866

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Economic Development

Ida-Lew Economic Development Council—a non-profit organization working to recruit new businesses, help existing businesses to expand, and otherwise strengthen and diversify the economic base of Idaho and Lewis Counties—is based in Grangeville. It tells businesses about the area's low costs of doing business, favorable business climate, and quality of life.

Because of its long-term high unemployment rate, Idaho County is an eligible labor surplus area, giving local businesses priority for government contracts.

Major Employers

Bennett Forest Industries
Idaho State Penitentiary
Pacific Cabinets Inc.
Salmon Rapids Lodge
Seubert Excavators Inc.
St. Mary's Hospital (Cottonwood)
Syringa General Hospital (Grangeville)
Three Rivers Timber, Inc.
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Forest Service

Occupational Wages*

Starting Pay

Bookkeepers	\$8.25
Carpenters, Journey-Level	\$14.75
Cashiers	\$7.00
Cooks, Restaurant	\$7.00
Guards	\$9.70
Laborers, Construction	\$9.50
Loggers	\$14.50
Nurse Aides, Certified (CNAs)	\$7.50
Nurses, Registered	\$18.50
Salespersons, Retail	\$7.25
Secretaries	\$10.00
Teachers	\$19.12
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$13.75

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	4,197	\$21,059	4,490	\$28,195	4,580	\$28,524
Agriculture	210	\$26,728	137	\$29,998	149	\$28,450
Mining	108	\$28,330	79	\$35,928	85	\$34,693
Construction	265	\$18,400	342	\$24,695	363	\$26,328
Manufacturing	434	\$28,303	461	\$36,591	487	\$38,170
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	771	\$19,046	876	\$26,132	886	\$27,292
Information	48	\$15,731	38	\$19,983	44	\$21,983
Financial Activities	129	\$18,451	165	\$28,111	176	\$27,688
Professional and Business Services	89	\$21,319	76	\$32,959	76	\$31,861
Educational and Health Services	316	\$18,698	539	\$24,187	560	\$24,587
Leisure and Hospitality	374	\$8,000	426	\$9,972	430	\$9,882
Other Services	51	\$10,044	89	\$14,474	90	\$14,713
Government	1,402	\$23,840	1,263	\$35,624	1,233	\$35,267

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Idaho County	\$16,132	\$17,218	\$17,846	\$19,003	\$19,915	\$19,749	\$20,239	\$21,593	\$22,596	\$23,753
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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labor.idaho.gov

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